



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Darren Rogers
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4461 (office)
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)
Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com

SUMMERS 'COUNTING DOWN MINUTES' UNTIL SATURDAY'S LUKAS CLASSIC

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018) – Rest will not come easy for trainer **Chad Summers** over the next two days as the 33-year-old conditioner anxiously awaits Saturday night's \$200,000 Lukas Classic Presented by Budweiser (Grade III) at Churchill Downs when he will lead over top Grade I-winning sprinter **Mind Your Biscuits** as the even-money morning line favorite.

"I won't be sleeping at all now being that short of a favorite – that's pretty nerve-wracking," said Summers as he stood alongside Mind Your Biscuits behind Barn 17 on Thursday morning at Churchill Downs. "I'm so excited for the race to get here, now I just have to figure out if I should wear a suit or, since it's the Lukas Classic, wear pressed jeans and a cowboy hat like Wayne."

Mind Your Biscuits, the brilliant Grade I-winning sprinter who finished second to **Diversify** in Saratoga's Grade I Whitney in his first race beyond one mile, will attempt to land his first win around two turns and a possible spot in the Breeders' Cup Classic (GI) on Nov. 3 at Churchill Downs.

The 5-year-old son of Posse shipped to Churchill Downs on Sept. 13 to begin his preparation for the Lukas Classic and Breeders' Cup.

"This has been part of our plan since April," Summers said. "We've settled in nicely to Churchill Downs. He schooled in the paddock (Wednesday) and went to the gate (Thursday). We're doing just fine and hope we feel even better Saturday night around 10 o'clock."

The 1 1/8-mile Lukas Classic for 3-year-olds and up, which honors the iconic 83-year-old Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**, is the centerpiece of an 11-race "Downs After Dark" evening program – the final nighttime card at Churchill Downs this year. Three other stakes events are showcased on the card: top milers in the \$100,000 Ack Ack (GIII); 3-year-olds in the \$100,000 Jefferson Cup (Listed) at 1 1/8 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course; and purebred Arabians in the \$100,000 President of the United Arab Emirates Cup (GI) over 1 1/16 miles.

Saturday night's first race is 6 p.m. (all times Eastern) and the Lukas Classic will go as Race 9 at 10:11 p.m.

Mind Your Biscuits made international headlines in March when the 5-year-old son of Posse scored his second consecutive win in the Dubai Golden Shaheen (GI) on Dubai World Cup night at Meydan Racecourse – his fifth graded stakes win and third against Grade I company. With the victory, he surpassed 2003 Kentucky Derby winner **Funny Cide** as the richest New York-bred of all-time.

Rising star and Florida-based jockey **Tyler Gaffalione** will take over the riding duties on Saturday from **Joel Rosario**, who is booked to ride top Classic contender **Accelerate** in the \$300,000 Awesome Again (GI) at Santa Anita. Gaffalione is expected to stay in Kentucky for Keeneland's three-week Fall Meet beginning on Oct. 5.

The complete Lukas Classic field from the rail out (with jockeys, assigned weights and morning line odds): **Honorable Duty** (Corey Lanerie, 121, 5-2); **Remembering Rita** (Alex Birzer, 123, 15-1); **Rated R Superstar** (Brian Hernandez Jr., 123, 12-1); **Toast of New York** (Julien Leparoux, 121, 15-1); **Flowers for Lisa** (Jose Ferrer, 121, 15-1); Mind Your Biscuits (Gaffalione, 121, 1-1); **Term of Art** (Shaun Bridgmohan, 121, 10-1); and **Breaking Lucky** (Ricardo Santana Jr., 121, 6-1).

Presented by **Budweiser**, the theme for Saturday night's "Downs After Dark" event is "**Bourbon & Beats.**" Guests are encouraged to wear shades of purple and stay on trend with autumn fashion as they celebrate a pairing of Kentucky sounds and spirits. Admission gates open Saturday at 5 p.m. and the final race of the evening is scheduled for 11:10 p.m. General admission is \$10 and reserved seat packages start at \$25, which are available for purchase on www.ChurchillDowns.com.

The **National Weather Service** forecast for Louisville calls for mostly sunny skies with a high near 71.

Saturday is the penultimate day of Churchill Downs' 11-date September Meet. Closing day is Sunday.

C Z ROCKET, SEEKING THE SOUL MADE 2-1 CO-FAVORITES IN SATURDAY'S ACK ACK – Frank Fletcher Racing's four-length Kelly's Landing winner **C Z Rocket** and Charles Fipke's Clark Handicap (Grade I) hero **Seeking the Soul** were installed as the 2-1 co-morning line favorites in Saturday night's 26th running of the Grade III, \$100,000 Ack Ack Presented by GE Appliances at Churchill Downs.

C Z Rocket, trained by **Al Stall Jr.**, cruised to victory in the Kelly's Landing and, most recently, finished fourth in the Aug. 25 Forego (GI) at Saratoga.

"I still think this horse is getting better with each start," assistant trainer **Melanie Giddings** said. "He simply has a lot of class."

-more-

The lightly-raced son of City Zip will once again be ridden by jockey **Shaun Bridgmohan** who took over the riding assignment from **Jose Lezcano** three starts ago.

Breaking just to C Z Rocket's inside in post No. 6 is Seeking the Soul. The 2017 Clark Handicap winner will cut back in distance to a one-turn mile for trainer **Dallas Stewart**.

"(Seeking the Soul) is mean but he's a big and healthy horse," Stewart said. "We almost wanted to run in the Breeders' Cup Classic (GI) last year but didn't jump the gun."

The 5-year-old son of Perfect Soul (IRE) will be reunited with jockey **Brian Hernandez Jr.** who was last aboard the horse two starts ago where he was narrowly defeated as the heavy 1-2 favorite in the Schaffer Memorial at Indiana Grand. Saturday will mark the first start that Seeking the Soul will run around one turn since a third-place effort in a seven-furlong conditioned-allowance race at Belmont Park on June 10, 2017.

The Ack Ack is scheduled as the eighth race at 9:39 p.m.

The complete Ack Ack field, in order of post position (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds): **Awesome Slew** (Corey Lanerie, Mark Casse, 6-1); **Giant Expectations** (Julien Lejaroux, Peter Eurton, 3-1); **Flatlined** (Joe Rocco Jr., Scooter Dickey, 20-1); **Warrior's Club** (Chris Landeros, D. Wayne Lukas, 6-1); **Nice Not Nice** (Gabriel Saez, Buff Bradley, 20-1); Seeking the Soul (Hernandez, Stewart, 2-1); and C Z Rocket (Bridgmohan, Stall, 2-1).

All horses will tote 121 pounds.

WEST-COAST SHIPPER MAJESTIC EAGLE MADE SLIGHT 5-2 MORNING LINE FAV IN SATURDAY'S JEFFERSON CUP – California invader **Majestic Eagle** hopes to land his first stakes victory as the slight 5-2 morning line favorite in Saturday night's 42nd running of the \$100,000 Jefferson Cup (Listed) at Churchill Downs.

Owned by **David Heerensperger** and trained by **Neil Drysdale**, Majestic Eagle arrived at Churchill Downs on Tuesday and the colt is stabled in veteran trainer **Neil Howard's** Barn 25.

"Neil (Drysdale) and I go back a long way," Howard said. "I'm happy to help him out. (Majestic Eagle) jogged about one mile and galloped 1 1/8 miles (Thursday) and he seems pretty happy here so far."

Majestic Eagle narrowly broke his maiden against older horses in April at Santa Anita under Hall of Fame rider **Mike Smith**. The son of Medaglia d'Oro scored a one-length victory in a first-level allowance race in July at Del Mar prior to his fourth-place effort in the Del Mar Derby (GII) on Sept. 2.

Jockey **Brian Hernandez Jr.** picks up the mount on Majestic Eagle and will break from post position No. 6.

The Jefferson Cup is carded as Race 7 with a post time of 9:05 p.m.

The Jefferson Cup field, from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds): **Discovered** (Declan Cannon, Daniel Sanner, 20-1); **Armed for Battle** (Robby Albarado, Jen Patterson, 20-1); **Tigers Rule** (James Graham, Vickie Foley, 6-1); **Factor This** (Shaun Bridgmohan, Brad Cox, 12-1); **Hot Springs** (Ricardo Santana, Steve Asmussen, 3-1); Majestic Eagle (Hernandez, Drysdale, 5-2); **Silent Citizen** (Albin Jimenez, Efren Loza Jr., 20-1); **Captivating Moon** (Corey Lanerie, Chris Block, 3-1); **King Valero** (Samuel Camacho Jr., Alejandro Gonzalez, 20-1); and **Dubby Dubbie** (Jack Gilligan, Michelle Lovell, 8-1).

ROCCO HOPES TO REPEAT WITH QUICK AND RICH IN SATURDAY'S PRESIDENT OF UAE CUP – Locally-based jockey **Joe Rocco Jr.** will be seeking his record-extending fourth victory in the Grade I, \$100,000 President of the United Arab Emirates Cup for Arabian-bred horses when he gets a leg-up on **Quick and Rich** from trainer **Lynn Ashby** for Saturday's sixth running of the 1 1/16-mile race at Churchill Downs.

"If I didn't fracture my wrist in 2016, I would've been the only jockey based at Churchill Downs to win this race," Rocco said. "I broke my wrist in 2016 and **Calvin (Borel)** rode **Paddys Day**. I originally had the mount but had to take off.

"Quick and Rich is a really nice horse. He probably should've won his last start (Delaware Classic Handicap). He ran a great second and I'm excited to get back on him Saturday. It was a great to win this race last year. I don't think we'll be that big of a price again this year."

Owned by **Tom Fritz**, Quick and Rich scored a surprising 19-1 upset victory in last year's running of the President of the UAE Cup.

Rocco holds the record for most wins by a jockey in the President of the UAE Cup: **Valiant Boy SBFAR** (2014, '15); Quick and Rich (2017).

The President of the UAE Cup for purebred Arabian 4-years-olds and up – the world's most ancient breed of equines – is carded as Race 10 at 10:42 p.m. (all times Eastern).

The complete field for the President of the UAE Cup in order of post position (with jockey and trainer): **Quick Sand AA** (Sasha Risenhoover, Jerenesto Torrez); Quick and Rich (Rocco, Ashby); **Burn Notice MC** (Carlos Esquillin, Wallace Neilson); **Easter Man** (Keiber Coa, Jerenesto Torrez); **Uptown Sandy Girl** (Corey Lanerie, Ashby); **Mystical MHF** (Ryan Powell, Simon Hobson); **RB Hocus Pocus** (Ty Kennedy, Hobson); and **Madjikman** (Shaun Bridgmohan, Fenneka Bentley).

MEET LEADERS – Perennial leading rider **Corey Lanerie** began Thursday with a 11-10 lead over **Julien Leparoux** in the jockey standings. **Robby Albarado**, **Shaun Bridgmohan** and **Ricardo Santana Jr.** were tied for third with five wins each. ... Louisville-native **Brad Cox** held a 5-4 win lead in the trainer standings over **Tom Amoss** and **Ian Wilkes**. ... **Calumet Farm**, **G. Watts Humphrey Jr.**, **Maggi Moss** and **WinStar Farm**, **China Horse Club** and **SF Racing** were tied atop the owner standings with two victories, each.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Racing continues Thursday for the final **Twilight Thursday** of the calendar year. The eight-race card kicks off at 5 p.m. with \$1 beer, live music from **Roadie** and local food trucks. The 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot carryover of \$10,085 gets underway in Race 3 at 5:58 p.m. (all times Eastern) and the \$1 Super Hi 5 carryover of \$11,382 is in Race 8 at 8:23 p.m. ... Friday is billed as **Senior Day** at Churchill Downs. Guests 60 and older can enjoy a discounted lunch on Millionaires' Row for \$24. To purchase tickets, call (502) 636-4450. First post Friday is 12:45 p.m. ... Saturday is **Downs After Dark Presented by Budweiser**. Gates open for the 11-race program at 5 p.m. and the first post is 6 p.m. The theme for evening is "Bourbon and Beats" and guests are encouraged to wear autumn-inspired purple colors. For more information about Downs After Dark, visit: <https://bit.ly/2Qfn7VX>. ... Sunday is the final day of the September Meet with a 10-race card beginning at 12:45 p.m. ... Trainer **Ron Moquett** reported Thursday he will ship Forego (GI) winner **Whitmore** from his base at Churchill Downs to Keeneland on Thursday afternoon to breeze Friday morning in preparation for the Oct. 5 Phoenix Stakes (GII). ... **Ironhorse Racing Stable's** 2017 Woodford Stakes (GII) winner **Bucchero** worked a half-mile bullet in :46.80 Thursday morning at Churchill Downs. Bucchero could defend his title in the Oct. 6 Woodford at Keeneland, according to trainer **Tim Glyshaw**. ... **"Inside Churchill Downs"** airs Friday at 6 p.m. on ESPN 680/105.7. The one-hour show, hosted by Churchill Downs Racetrack's **Darren Rogers** and **Kevin Kerstein** will preview the weekend's critical Breeders' Cup prep races. Those outside the Louisville region can listen live via the station website at www.espnloouisville.com.

-END-